with the Commander-in-Chief, General Gadorna
General Sarrail and General Milne, who commanded
our Army in the Balkans, crossed over from Salonika.
Sir Francis Elliott and Colonel Fairholme, the Military
Attache, came from Athens.
In order to define the aims, and, in so far as I could,
direct the discussions of the Conference, I had pre-
pared the following memorandum which
Text of my I circulated to the delegates. It was
memorandum designed definitely to raise the important
issues as to Allied strategy which I have set forth in
the preceding chapter, and if possible to obtain
decisions which would release us from the fatal net in
which we were enmeshed by the Chantilly plans.

" i. The Conference was summoned at the desire
of the British Government, as we felt that, in the
present situation, a very frank discussion was
necessary, not only with reference to recent events
in the Balkans and in Greece, but also in regard
to the whole campaign of 1917.

2. We wish first to ask the permission of the
Conference to speak with great frankness, and we
invite the representatives of France and Italy to
adopt the same course. In the last two and a
half years the British and French representatives,
owing to the comparative nearness of London and
Paris, have been able to meet on very frequent
occasions. The result is that we have all got to
know one another personally ; by degrees

formality
has been overcome; and at our most recent
Conferences we have been able to speak our full
minds to one another without reserve, and without
causing any friction or misunderstanding. Considerations of distance have unfortunately prevented